

NEWSLETTER



ARBORETA & BOTANIC GARDENS

prepared by the public services division

May 10, 1972

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION

The entire staff, meaning all three facilities, is invited for another rousing skating party at the Fiesta Roller Rink in San Gabriel the night of Monday, May 15th. The cost will be \$1.40 per person. We will have the rink exclusively from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Reservations must be made by Friday, May 12th at 5:00 p.m.

PUBLIC SERVICES DIVISION

The long-awaited bicycle racks have arrived and will be installed shortly in the entrance area. The racks will accommodate 15 bikes with a locking ring for each.

The recent as-needed-tour-guide examination conducted here produced a number of promising candidates. Three will be hired from the new list.

Six tape recorders have been donated to the Arboretum by the Santa Anita Highlands Garden Club for use initially by blind visitors to the Braille Terrace and the historical area. Through the use of pre-recorded tapes the visitors can listen to an informative narration as they make their way through these areas without needing a trained guide. The recorders will be available at the gatehouse.

ARBORETUM DIVISION

Three new kiosks, a gift from Sunset Magazine, have been installed in the Demonstration Home Gardens. Kay Bemis is doing a great job maintaining them under John Provine's supervision. You will also find new furniture to complement our gardens.

Two employees resigned last month. One is Bruce Jennings who is going into insurance sales. His leaving results in a vacancy at Lux Arboretum for

the position of Assistant Arboretum Gardener which has been posted. (Descanso also has an opening) The other employee is Gary Helm who has moved to Oregon. We wish them both good luck.

A word of warning to all dog owners - Keep them on leashes at the beach! Chris Van Wagner received a \$40.00 ticket for not having Olie "physically restrained." Very costly!

RESEARCH DIVISION

Our research in air pollution here at the Arboretum is aimed at emphasizing the importance of vegetation to environmental improvement.

Recently Pasadena Beautiful recognized the potential and is now conducting a campaign to plant 20,000 trees in the Pasadena area. They have requested George Hanson and Linda Thorne to furnish data on the amount of pollution these proposed trees would remove from the air. On the basis of their calculations derived from laboratory experimentation, the trees, if planted at random within the city, would absorb about 90 lbs. of ozone out of a total of several tons existing in the air on a smoggy day. (This, however, does not include other pollutants, such as PAN, Co, floride, and lead. Eventually foliage is able to absorb these pollutants too). If the trees were planted so as to provide a continuous canopy over a relatively large area, a 30% reduction in the ozone level could be expected within the protected area. This could reduce the ozone concentration from 0.35 ppm (the school-alert level) to a more tolerable 0.25ppm, beneath the canopy of leaves. There is no doubt that more trees will help this situation. Trees should be required in all parking lots, of which we have plenty in the L. A. area.

DESCANSO GARDENS DIVISION

The camellias have finished blooming but there is still a myriad of color among the bedding plants

such as the iceland poppies, snapdragons, calendulas and the delphiniums. The roses are just about at their peak of bloom.

People and Happenings.

Mark Anthony should be home from the hospital by the time this release goes to the press.

A demonstration on composting was given by George Lewis and Dr. Breitmann of the Kiwanis Club on the 22nd of April. It was attended by more than 200 people. All indications are that it was quite a success.

Mrs. Phyllis Hill, a docent and member of the Descanso Guild, is supervising the refurbishing of the bird observation station. New show cases have been installed for the mounting of specimen birds, bird nests and colorful eggs. Wall to wall carpeting is being installed also. If you are a bird lover you should consider a walk through the gardens because many migratory precocial (newly hatched birds that are covered with down and are fully active) and altricial (opposite of precocial - newly hatched birds that are helpless) birds have been seen recently. Some examples are the red-tailed hawk, California quail, the coot, the swift, the belted kingfish, the stellar jay, the common bushtit, the thrasher, the grosbeak and the western tanager.

If you are an insect collector, then bring your net and killing jar because many interesting insects are out. Recently we have seen the Valley Carpenter bee. This bee is as large as the bumble bee but more colorful because the males are bronze or golden color. There are many other insects such as the mottled dragonfly, the swallow tail, the sphinx moth, Dianidae and the mourning cloak, the tarantula hawk and the stonefly.

SOUTH COAST BOTANIC GARDEN DIVISION

We welcome Steve Blum, our new Grounds Maintenance Man, to the staff.

The Cactus and Succulent Society held its first meeting on April 9 with a tremendous response in enrollment and participation.

Palos Verdes Women's Club held its annual Tea at South Coast April 12. Over 400 guests enjoyed the garden as the "grand finale" of a tour of local gardens. We received many compliments on our continuing development.

The weekend of April 22-23 featured the Silver Spur Garden Club Flower Show. The South Bay Bromeliad Show followed on April 29-30. Public response to this event was an encouraging attendance of 1200+ visitors.

Considering all the activity here in April, it is no surprise to find our monthly attendance figure totaling over 7800 visitors.

Contractors are now grading for the 600-unit apartment complex to be erected northeast of us on Rolling Hills Road. Excavation costs were estimated at approximately \$600,000!

Repairs to the lake lining and island are complete. The water level is near maximum and the spillway is functioning. Now the only problem is how to discourage our weekend waders.

Flood Control's weather station got a face lift. Juniper and portulaca do wonders for it.

Birds observed on the April walk included: turkey vulture, longbilled curlew, whimbrel, Vaux's swift, Ash-throated flycatcher, warbling vireo, black-throated gray warbler, and Bullock's oriole. The Arizona hooded oriole, a species seldom seen in Southern California, was observed in the Youth Education Section.